

Tony Redington May 12, 2022 Draft Rev. 1

Draft Notes NPA 2/3 May 12, 2022

Meeting began at 6:42 pm and adjourned at 9 p.m.

NPA 2/3 Steering Committee members introduced—Patrick Johnson, Jess Hyman, Mollie Klepack, Chris Haessly, Charlie Giannoni, and Tony Redington. Haessly moderator and Redington note taker.

Steering Committee invites anyone to email or do the City website to request ideas, proposals for subject, or actual presentation requests.

This was a hybrid meeting with about 12-15 in attendance at the Community Center Event Hall and about 28-30 online participants.

Thanks to Mascoma Bank which provided meals at the Community Center.

Elmwood Podville

The bulk of the meeting extending from about 6:40 pm through 7:51 pm meeting over discussion and then two votes on an NPA resolution on the Elmwood Podville proposal for 30 units of individual housing pods and a separate washhouse designed for a 3-year life.

“The Wards 2 & 3 Neighborhood Planning Assembly endorses the establishment of a temporary Shelter Pod Village and

Community Resource Center on Elwood Avenue to support community members who are experiencing homelessness and we require the city to take proactive efforts to keep abutting neighbors informed about development plans and activities at the site.”

After long discussion a vote was taken to table the question, 11 Yes, 26 No. Then the resolution passed 23 Yes, 8 No. The City Council will be informed of the NPA 2/3 action.

Here is a sample of comments by about a dozen individuals made during the discussion.

Redington pointed out that the City and State has never funded a single unit of actual affordable housing support and security, 30% of income max rent happily enjoyed by one in four of Burlington renters today, about 2,500. Redington said the City can provide such assistance like the penny for parks and avoid the need for podville—that the pod rent per month is \$1,600 compared to a 1 bedroom median available rent of \$1,400 here. Later he suggested motels as a better choice than pods. Elizabeth Curry responded to motels by saying the state is ending the program next month.

Lucy Gluck spoke in favor of Podville. Another said there is no one to run the service and more information is needed. Stephen Carey asked why ONE should shoulder all the social responsibility and suggested the New North End or South End as alternative locations. Solveig Overby also stated a lack of information on the project and suggested a delay in the vote. One resident stated a lack of public outreach and asked that the resolution “require” not just “encourage” the City to

undertake proactive measures to keep neighbors informed. The word “require” in place of the word “encourage” was accepted by resolution author Jess Hyman as a friendly one and the change was made. The lack of a budget, lack of a social service agency manager, no choices for the homeless, clear regulations, “adventurous form of housing,” “formula for disaster,” same argument against housing proposals repeated for decades, etc., were stated.

South Champlain Park

Max Madalinski presented alternatives being considered for the South Champlain park.

DPW 2022 Construction Program

Robert Goulding presented the construction program for Public Works this year.

Vermont Make Music Day June 21

David Schein spoke of Big Heavy World activities for a major set of events for June 21.

There will be many outdoor Vermont musical events in this sixth year for Heavy World with over 100 cities in the US plus many more world wide—both live and virtual. Check out info at: <https://bigheavyworld.com/latest-news/2022/3/31/make-music-vermont-returns-on-june-21> Overall over 1,000 cities in a 120 countries undertake the summer solstice music events!

City Councilors

City Councilor Gene Bergman delivered a single message—the budget for the City is now being determined with hearings on various departments coming up now. Make your thoughts known to Gene, Councilor Magee and Councilor Freeman. Gene said austerity is not an answer!

School Commissioners

School Commissioner Jean Waltz pointed out the regional nature of the Technical Center which is part and parcel of the new High School. There are many sending towns whose students will be served in the Tech Center. School Commissioner Polly Vanderputten also attended.

State Representatives

Rep. Brian Cina gave a report on the Legislature which closed earlier in the evening. He praised the efforts of House Speaker Jill Krowinski—and an NPA 2/3 legislative representative—on coming within one vote of override of Gov. Scott's veto of the BTV just cause eviction ordinance approval by the Legislature—apparently she was misled by at least one legislative member who had indicated support. Still no definitive news on PCB rendition funding which could apply to Burlington High School razing or any school capital funding applicable to the new BHS project.

Adjournment 9:00 p.m.